

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 004126

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY: POL-MIL ROUND-UP, JUNE 2005

REFERENCE: A) ANKARA 3892, B) 2004 ANKARA 6000

(Note: This is the first in what we intend to be a regular series of unclassified reports on significant Turkish defense and national security issues in the press and other open sources. End note)

Contents

-- New National Security Policy Approval Delayed
-- TGS Chief Speaks Out On Terrorism
-- Syrian Scud Missile over Turkey
-- Annual Military Promotions and Retirements
-- Turkey's Military Relations with Other Countries
-- Defense Industry Activity

National Security Policy Approval Delayed

[1](#)1. A new National Security Policy document outlining the government's priorities with regard to threats to Turkey's internal and external security, and based on input from all Council member agencies, was expected to be finalized at the June 21 National Security Council meeting. The new draft document is intended to reflect the post-Sept. 11 global security realities and the current regional security environment. However, debate on the 25-page draft - a sharp contrast to the 200-plus page document issued in 2001 and the 300-page draft submitted by the Turkish General Staff (TGS) - was postponed until the next bimonthly NSC meeting in August - at the earliest.

[1](#)2. The NSC did not comment officially on the postponement but Turkish press reports claimed military leaders were concerned that the new draft 'softened' Turkey's previous provision on Cyprus; that military responsibilities with respect to domestic security had been removed from the draft to comply with the EU standards; and that internal separatism and fundamentalism were not properly characterized as the primary threat to Turkey's stability. However, the press also speculated that TGS leadership does not consider NSC Secretary General Yigit Alpogon, a career diplomat and the first civilian to head the NSC (ref b), the appropriate lead on this exercise. In discussing this with us, NSC dismiss the stories about inter-agency friction, mirroring President Sezer's public pronouncement that the postponement was due solely to the need for additional review. (ref a)

Chief of the General Staff on Terrorism

[1](#)3. In a speech inaugurating Turkey's NATO Center of Excellence for the Defense Against Terrorism in Ankara on June 28th, TGS CHOD General Hilmi Ozkok stressed the need for preemptive measures against terrorism. Calling Sept. 11, 2003 a turning point in history, he suggested the need for a paradigm shift in security planning from the traditional Cold War stance to one that can better respond to asymmetric threats. Calling for a common definition of terrorism, Ozkok complained that some NATO countries had ignored Turkish calls for cooperation in the fight against the PKK terrorist organization. He recognized that terrorists could not be defeated by military action alone and stressed the important role of civilian organizations to strengthen democratic structures.

[1](#)4. In a separate message to the Silk Road-2005 Flag Officers Seminar that same day, Ozkok called Turkey a bridge between NATO countries and crisis areas in the Caucasus and Central Asia that would play a critical role in achieving the NATO objectives articulated at the 2004 Istanbul Summit (The Anatolian News Agency).

Syrian Scud Missile over Turkey

[1](#)5. The centrist Milliyet quoted a New York Times story on June 3rd on the misfire and break up on May 27th in Turkey's southeastern Hatay region of one of three Scud missiles tested by Syria. Turkish press confirmed the story when the Turkish Ambassador to Washington acknowledged Syria

had apologized for the incident. This issue received scant coverage by the Turkish media.

Annual Military Promotions and Retirements

16. At the annual Supreme Military Council meeting to be held from August 1-4, the promotion and retirement of 116 generals and admirals will be considered. As reported by the New Anatolian English-language daily, 40 generals and admirals are predicted to retire; CHOD GEN Ozkok is expected to remain in command for another year; Military Academy Commander GEN Faruk Comert will be assigned Air Forces Fleet Commander; and Deputy CHOD GEN Ilker Basbug is expected to be assigned as First Army Commander in Istanbul.

Turkey's Military Relations with Other Countries

17. Iraq: Turkish press regularly reports on government efforts against the PKK terrorist organization. The leftist Cumhuriyet daily reported that 5,000 Kurdish PKK militants have taken shelter in camps in the Qandil Mountains in northern Iraq and the camps are protected by 'Dokka' anti-aircraft missiles, Russian-made Strela SA-7 missiles, and heavy weaponry. Iraqi Deputy Minister of Interior Ahmad Al Hajafi commented on the PKK presence in northern Iraq by saying that Iraq had weak control over the region where the PKK is based. In the June 22nd Brussels Conference on Iraq, Turkish FM Abdullah Gul stated that Turkey is suffering from terrorism originating from northern Iraq and stressed Turkey's sensitivity about current ethnic shifts and the future status of Kirkuk. Consistent with previous months, reporting continued on the kidnapping and death of Turkish truck drivers delivering humanitarian and coalition supplies to Iraq. In June, two Turkish truckers were reported killed and 1 kidnapped in Iraq, bringing an estimated total of over 100 Turkish drivers killed in Iraq since the beginning of coalition efforts.

18. Pakistan: PM Erdogan said after meeting with his Pakistani counterpart that Turkey and Pakistan were considering the joint production of tanks, armored personnel carriers and patrol boats and that the Turkish defense firm Aselsan will consider the sale of military equipment to the Pakistani Army.

19. Azerbaijan: On June 6th, Turkey signed a protocol with Azerbaijan for the provision of military assistance to the Azeri Army, as reported by the Anatolian News Agency.

110. Kazakhstan: Turkish Armed Forces granted military equipment worth \$1,333,000 to the Kazakh Army (Anatolian News Agency). After visiting the Kazakh Defense Minister on June 14th, CHOD GEN Ozkok said cooperation between the two armed forces was improving, especially in the area of training (ANA).

111. Greece: During June, the Turkish press cited Greek press reports claiming Turkey infringed the Athens Flight Information Region (FIR) and violated Greek national airspace 3 times. (COMMENT: We understand the Greek press routinely reports "FIR infringements" and airspace violations; the Turkish press occasionally picks up these stories. END COMMENT.) During a visit to Greece to meet with his counterpart, Turkish Land Forces Commander GEN Yasar Buyukanit stated that the problem of the violation in Aegean stems from Greece's designation of its FIR as the virtual equivalent of national airspace.

Defense Industry Activity

112. The Defense Industry Executive Committee (Prime Minister, CHOD, Defense Minister and Undersecretary of SSM) approved on June 22 the merger of four major Turkish defense companies -- ASELSAN, ROKETSAN, TAI and HAVELSAN -- under a defense holding company in order to develop indigenous capabilities in unmanned aircraft and tank and aircraft modernization. According to the quarterly Defense and Aerospace magazine, MKEK and depots/factories operated by the Turkish military factories will also be incorporated. The holding company will manage some \$500-600 million in capital. The Executive Committee also decided to purchase \$3 billion in weapons to modernize the Turkish Armed Forces.

113. Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) signed a \$100 million contract with Northrop Grumman for the production of F-35 spare parts, according to the leftist Cumhuriyet daily.